

ALL-RUSSIAN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION
“RUSSIAN RED CROSS”

Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy
All-Russian non-government organization
“Russian Red Cross”

Moscow
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1. General provisions

1.1. Under the provisions of the Statutes of the All-Russian non-government Organization “Russian Red Cross” (hereinafter, the RRC), the present Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy was developed. The RRC carries out its activities guided by the Constitution and legislation of the Russian Federation, the norms of international humanitarian law stipulated by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereinafter, the International Movement), Constitution of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (hereinafter, the IFRC) in line with the principles of voluntary service, equality, self-management, legitimacy and transparency. These principles are aimed at implementing the ideas of humanity and compassion for people, at carrying out socially important humanitarian activities for the benefits of the most vulnerable groups of population, as well as at assisting governmental and local authorities in the humanitarian issues. The RRC is also guided in its activities by the Resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and other documents of the International Movement.

1.2 The present Policy is developed in order to implement the unified approach and the structure in establishing relationships between the RRC partnerships with entities and representatives both within and outside the Russian Federation in the framework of implementation of the RRC humanitarian mandate.

1.3. Concurrently, the RRC complies with the 2nd Resolution of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of 2007 and the 4th Resolution of the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of 2011. The RRC executes an auxiliary role in regard to the Russian Federation, cooperating with government authorities in humanitarian activities in the territory of the Russian Federation and beyond that in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereinafter, the Fundamental Principles).

1.4. The RRC advocates for effective humanitarian dialogue and a framework for long-term cooperation with partners in humanitarian issues in order to develop impartial, neutral, independent and effective humanitarian actions.

1.5. In order to implement the provisions of the RRC Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy, the present Policy may be supplemented by the development and implementation of internal regulations, rules or guidelines.

2. Terms and definitions

2.1. For the purposes and objectives of the present document, the following terms and definitions are applicable.

2.2. Humanitarian diplomacy is the persuasion of public authorities, other decision-makers and opinion leaders to act in all circumstances for the benefits of the most vulnerable groups of population in full compliance with the Fundamental Humanitarian Principles.

2.3. The auxiliary role Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (hereinafter, the National Societies) implies the support for their public authorities by supplementing or replacing public humanitarian services, while acting aligned with the Fundamental Principles. The activities of National Societies cover a wide range of areas, providing unique opportunities to assist and support public authorities and vulnerable groups of population inside the country and at the international level.

3. The subject matter and actor of the RRC humanitarian diplomacy

3.1. The subject matter of the RRC humanitarian diplomacy covers principles, strategies and measures aimed at persuading public authorities, other decision-makers and opinion leaders to act in all circumstances for the benefits of the most vulnerable groups of population in full compliance with the Fundamental Humanitarian Principles.

3.2. The actors of RRC humanitarian diplomacy are persons who participate in the process of humanitarian diplomacy. In line with the widely accepted standards of the International Movement, the actors of humanitarian diplomacy are humanitarian officers. Such actors within RRC humanitarian diplomacy include the Russian Red Cross as an integral organization, its members, staff and volunteers. The RRC President is the organization's main representative (the Lead Humanitarian Officer) at a high level and the person responsible for setting the direction of humanitarian diplomacy with the support of those responsible for humanitarian diplomacy (humanitarian officers).

4. The goal of the RRC humanitarian diplomacy

4.1. The goal of RRC humanitarian diplomacy is to persuade public authorities, other decision-makers and opinion leaders in the Russian Federation and beyond that in all circumstances to act for the benefits of vulnerable groups of population in full compliance with the Fundamental Humanitarian Principles.

5. Implementation approaches of the humanitarian diplomacy

5. RRC humanitarian diplomacy is implemented through a variety of activities, methods and strategies, ranging from private negotiations to public campaigns, and implies various communication tools.

5.1. The implementation approaches of humanitarian diplomacy are developed and implemented in the work of the RRC considering the specific goals and objectives to be achieved by humanitarian action in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles. The RRC within its humanitarian mandate:

5.2. Holds a public or confidential humanitarian dialogue with government officials and other decision makers, opinion leaders in all circumstances to act for the benefits of the most vulnerable groups of population in full compliance with the Fundamental Humanitarian Principles.

5.3. Informs the general public, partners and beneficiaries about the status and mission of the RRC as a component of the International Movement, the goals, activities, as well as the essence of the Fundamental Principles and the structure of the International Movement:

5.3.1. Develops a set of guidelines to inform government agencies and institutions, partner organizations from the business community and socially-oriented NPOs to correctly position and perceive the RRC as one of the main humanitarian agencies in the country, as well as for a broader audience (schools, universities, exhibitions, conferences, forums, etc.);

5.3.2. Carries out a set of educational activities to inform the general public about the essence of the RRC activities;

5.4. Ensures that social challenges are identified and referred to partners in order to develop effective responses for assistance.

5.4.1. Ensures the readiness of the RRC representatives for practical interaction with humanitarian actors by holding activities aimed at improving the skills and awareness of the RRC staff, volunteers and members about the methods and means of work of the RRC in line with the Fundamental Principles in interaction with public authorities, other decision-makers and opinion leaders;

5.4.2. Develops partnerships with government agencies and authorities at the nationwide and regional levels, municipal governments, the business community and socially oriented non-profit organizations to jointly respond to humanitarian challenges;

5.4.3. Ensures the presence of the RRC representatives in various public authorities at the nationwide and regional level.

5.5. Searches for the feasibility and organizes risk mitigation within the RRC activities considering the Fundamental Principles and the geopolitical situation at the nationwide and international levels.

5.5.1. Identifies, analyzes and assesses the risks associated with humanitarian operations and other humanitarian activities.

5.5.2. Develops strategies and takes actions to mitigate the identified risks, considering the individual features of each situation.

5.5.3. Takes necessary measures to ensure the safety of members, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries in case of possible threat to life and health.

5.5.4. Regularly updates and adjusts risk management strategies based on current data and changes in the situation.

5.6 Analyzes and monitors the information related to the RRC published on publicly available sources, such as social media platforms, governmental official websites, educational entities and other resources to assess reputational risks, promptly respond and mitigate potential negative consequences associated with the dissemination of negative information. Adapts RRC activities in accordance with beneficiary requests and further advocates for RRC interests in dialogue with government officials, other decision-makers and opinion leaders to act in all circumstances for the benefits of the most vulnerable groups of population in full compliance with the Fundamental Humanitarian Principles.

5.7. The above list does not limit the RRC in the methods and means of implementing humanitarian diplomacy.

6. Scope of application of the RRC humanitarian diplomacy

6.1. The Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy is developed in order to provide the RRC with a more effective system for achieving humanitarian goals when considering the interests of the organization and beneficiaries.

6.2. The RRC humanitarian diplomacy is implemented in all processes of interaction and partnership with the ICRC, IFRC, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, as well as organizations and individuals external to the International Movement.

6.3. The RRC advocates for the fact that all members, staff and volunteers at all levels acquire all the necessary skills and become subject to the trainings to be able to implement the Humanitarian Diplomacy Policy.